

Talking Points
2009 Community Projects of Excellence Awards
Tuesday, March 10, 2009

- Good afternoon, and thank you all for being here for the presentation of the 2009 Community Projects of Excellence Awards.
- Each year, MDA's Community Services Division distributes millions of dollars, through both federally-funded and state funded-programs, to communities around the state for improvement projects. These projects not only boost economic development in these communities, but they also improve the quality of life for their residents.
- Whether it's the construction of a new park, the addition of an access road or repairs to a sewer line, each project represented here today was accomplished through the excellent stewardship of these funds.
- Not only did each of you take the initiative to apply for funding to better your communities, I commend you all for staying within your original budgets and completing your projects on time. Each of these projects has had a positive community impact.
- For these reasons, you are truly deserving of these awards.
- Thank you again for your commitment and dedication to your communities. Your hard work and desire to produce vibrant communities is paying off.
- I'd also like to thank the MDA staff who oversees these programs. They work diligently each day reviewing applications for grants and loans and administering these funding programs.

- Now, I'd like to introduce Gray Swoope of the Mississippi Development Authority. He'll provide more insight into each of the programs and will make the awards presentation. Again, thank you all for being here today.